



County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Social Services

Bryce Yokomizo
Director

June 20, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A "SUPPORTING FAMILIES AFTER
WELFARE REFORM" GRANT FROM THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
FOUNDATION**
(All Districts) (4 Votes)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the acceptance of the *"Supporting Families After Welfare Reform"* grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in the amount of \$187,500 for the grant period of May 1, 2002, through April 30, 2003.
2. Authorize the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to apply for a federal match for the same amount described above.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

These actions are required to approve the grant agreement and process the grant award funds.

Over the past several years, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) has exceeded established goals for enrolling children and their families into the Medi-Cal Program. Families are informed about their continuing eligibility to Medi-Cal upon termination from cash aid programs. However, according to published research, the majority remain unaware of their eligibility to the Medi-Cal Program. This results in underutilization and/or termination of benefits. To eliminate this barrier, DPSS has developed the Healthcare Emphasis on Learning Project (HELP), an educational outreach campaign.

The educational outreach project is designed to teach Medi-Cal beneficiaries about the importance of utilizing and retaining their health care benefits while making them better consumers of health care services. DPSS has been selected to receive a one year "*Supporting Families After Welfare Reform*" grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to implement HELP. With funding from the grant, DPSS will conduct a comprehensive analysis of Medi-Cal termination for a test district and based on the findings, develop educational outreach materials designed to reduce the most common types of terminations. The educational tools may focus on eligibility determinations with the intent to improve understanding and application of policies and procedures or to encourage improved and timely reporting from the Medi-Cal beneficiaries. As requested by the Foundation, we will also implement some of their "best practices" in an effort to mitigate erroneous terminations. The goal of the project is to increase the percentage of families with health care benefits after the one-year period.

This submission does not comply with the established guidelines for timely submission for Board approval because DPSS did not receive notification of grant approval until May 6, 2002, which is after the May 1, 2002, effective date for the grant.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

The education outreach activities funded with the "*Supporting Families After Welfare Reform*" grant and administered through this project are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan (Goal 1, "Service Excellence," which requires that we provide the public with easy access to quality information and services that are both beneficial and responsive.)

FISCAL IMPACT/ FINANCING:

The total cost for this one year project is \$375,000, which is fully offset by the grant and matching federal funds. The entire grant award and the matching federal dollars will be used in FY 2002-03 and is included in our budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

In 2000, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and the United States Department of Agriculture started the "*Supporting Families After Welfare Reform*" initiative with commitments totaling \$6.9 million. The goal of the program is to maximize enrollment of adults and children in Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and Food Stamps by improving state and county eligibility processes.

Attached is the Summary of Standard Agreement (Attachment I) and the Chief Administrative Office's Grant Management Statement for Grants \$100,000 or More (Attachment II).

CONTRACTING PROCESS:

Not applicable. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded grant funds to the County for a one year project.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES:

Acceptance of this grant will allow DPSS to pilot a one year educational outreach campaign to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

CONCLUSION:

When approved, this Department requires three adopted and stamped copies of the Board's action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryce Yokomizo", with a small flourish at the end.

Bryce Yokomizo
Director

BY:sm

- c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller

SUMMARY OF STANDARD AGREEMENT

1. **TYPE OF PROJECT:**

Health Care Educational Outreach Campaign

2. **AGENCY NAME AND CONTRACT PERSON:**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Steven A. Schroeder, M.D.
Post Office Box 2316
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-2316

3. **TERM:**

The one-year grant period is from May 1, 2002, through April 30, 2003.

4. **FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services has been awarded a one-year grant in the amount of \$187,500. DPSS is also required to secure matching federal dollars for this project.

5. **GEOGRAPHIC AREA TO BE SERVED:**

The services provided will be applied to Medi-Cal participants within the boundaries of the test district. The outreach material designed for the eligibility staff will be applied countywide.

6. **ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**

Sheryl L. Spiller, Chief, DPSS Health & Nutrition Programs Division

7. **APPROVALS:**

Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)

Bryce Yokomizo, Director

DPSS Bureau of Health, Nutrition & Community Services

Jacob R. Aguilar, Director

DPSS Health & Nutrition Programs Division

Sheryl L. Spiller, Chief

DPSS Financial Management Division

Otto Solorzano, Chief

Chief Administrative Office

Paul Croney, Principal Analyst

County Counsel (Approved as to form)

Barbara Goul, Principal Deputy County Counsel

**Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office
Grant Management Statement for Grants \$100,000 or More**

Department: Public Social Services		
Grant Project Title and Description: Healthcare Emphasis on Learning Project (HELP)		
<p>The Healthcare Emphasis on Learning Project (HELP) is an educational outreach campaign that is designed to reduce the number of inappropriate Medi-Cal terminations within a designated test district. Upon completion of a comprehensive analysis of the termination data for the test district, outreach materials will be developed to curtail the most common types of terminations.</p> <p>The outreach materials will be developed for both Medi-Cal beneficiaries and eligibility staff. The outreach materials developed for use by the beneficiaries will be designed to encourage improved and timely reporting. The outreach materials developed for staff will focus on improved understanding and application of recent policy and procedural changes. If this project proves to be successful and funding is available, DPSS plans to expand the services countywide.</p>		
Funding Agency	Program (Fed. Grant #/State Bill or Code #)	Grant Acceptance Deadline
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	Reference ID#: 044421	None
Total Amount of Grant Funding:		County Match: None
Grant Period:	Begin Date: 05/01/02	End Date: 04/30/03
Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:	Full Time: 0*	Part Time: 0*
Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires		
Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program?	Yes <u>N/A</u>	No <u> </u>
Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items?	Yes <u>N/A</u>	No <u> </u>
Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires?	Yes <u> </u>	No <u>X</u>
If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:		
a.) Absorb the program cost without reducing other services	Yes <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
b.) Identify other revenue sources (describe below)	Yes <u> </u>	No <u>X</u>
c.) Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant.	Yes <u> </u>	No <u>X</u>
Impact of additional personnel on existing space:		
<p>*No additional staff will be hired for this project. However, three allocated full-time employees will be utilized to administer the services under this project.</p>		
Other requirements not mentioned above:		

Department Head Signature _____ Date: _____